

HOUSE BILL 2205

By Sexton J

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 38;
Title 39; Title 40; Title 44 and Title 56, relative to
dogs.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 40-7-103(a), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

(12) Pursuant to § 39-17-203.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 17, is amended by adding the following as a new part:

39-17-201. Part definitions.

As used in this part:

(1) "Dangerous dog":

(A) Means a Pit bull, a Rottweiler, or any dog with known Pit bull or Rottweiler lineage; and

(B) Does not mean a police dog;

(2) "Owner" means any person who is vested with legal ownership to a dangerous dog and exercises custody or control of the dog; and

(3) "Police dog" means a dog that has been trained, and may be used, to assist a law enforcement officer in the performance of the officer's official duties.

39-17-202. Insurance required.

(a) It is an offense for a person to own a dangerous dog in this state without having a valid policy of insurance in the amount of at least twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) issued by an insurer authorized to transact business in this state insuring the

owner of the dangerous dog against liability for any injuries inflicted by the dangerous dog.

(b) A violation of subsection (a) is a Class B misdemeanor. Each day of a violation constitutes a separate offense.

39-17-203. Law enforcement authority to check insurance.

A law enforcement officer may, without a warrant, request a person provide proof of compliance with § 39-17-202. If requested, the person must provide the law enforcement officer with the requested proof or be subject to arrest.

SECTION 3. The headings to sections in this act are for reference purposes only and do not constitute a part of the law enacted by this act. However, the Tennessee Code Commission is requested to include the headings in any compilation or publication containing this act.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020, the public welfare requiring it.